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and the Proposed Class

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MIA LABOWITZ, individually, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

BIRD RIDES, INC., a Delaware corporation;
NEUTRON HOLDINGS, INC., a Delaware
corporation; **CITY OF SANTA MONICA**, a
public entity; **CITY OF LOS ANGELES**, a
public entity; **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**, a
public entity; and **DOES 1-100**,

Defendants.

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR:

1. 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* [The Americans with Disabilities Act]
2. 29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act]
3. California Government Code § 4450 *et seq.*
4. California Government Code § 11135 *et seq.*
5. California Civil Code § 54 *et seq.*
6. Public Nuisance
7. Trespass
8. California Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.*
9. Unjust enrichment

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Named Plaintiff Mia Labowitz (“Named Plaintiff”), for herself and on behalf of all others
2 similarly situated (the “Proposed Class”) complains of Bird Rides, Inc., a Delaware corporation
3 (“Bird Co.”), Neutron Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation doing business as Lime-S (“Lime
4 Co.”, together with Bird Co., collectively, the “Electric Scooter Defendants”), City of Santa
5 Monica, a public entity (“Santa Monica City”), City of Los Angeles, a public entity (“Los
6 Angeles City”), City of Beverly Hills, a public entity (“Beverly Hills City”, together with Santa
7 Monica City and Los Angeles City, collectively, the “City Defendants”), and Does 1-100 and
8 alleges as follows:
9

10 I. PARTIES

11
12 1. Named Plaintiff is a resident of the West Los Angeles neighborhood of Los
13 Angeles. She is a paraplegic. She is unable to walk or stand and relies on a wheelchair for
14 mobility. Named Plaintiff is a “qualified person with a disability” and a person with “a disability”
15 within the meaning of all applicable statutes and regulations including 42 U.S.C. § 12102(A), 28
16 C.F.R. § 35.104, 29 U.S.C. § 705(20)(B), California Government Code § 12926, the California
17 Unruh Civil Rights Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§51 and 52 et seq.), and other statutory laws which
18 protect the rights of “disabled persons”. She cannot walk, stand or move heavy or awkward
19 objects. She has been issued a Disabled Person Parking Placard by the State of California and
20 uses a specially equipped car.
21

22 2. Named Plaintiff has complied with the California Tort Claims Act requirements.
23

24 3. The Proposed Class consists of all persons with mobility impairment or visual
25 impairment who have been denied equal access to Pedestrian Rights of Way (as defined herein
26 below) as a result of the Defendants’ policies and practices with regard to the Pedestrian Rights
27 of Way and disability access.
28

1 4. Hereafter, references to Plaintiffs shall be deemed to include Named Plaintiff and
2 each member of the Proposed Class, unless otherwise indicated.

3 5. Defendant Bird Co. is a for-profit corporation which rents Bird Scooters (as
4 defined below) to Bird Customers (as defined below) through the Bird App (as defined below).
5 Bird Co. is a Delaware corporation, with its principal office located at 406 Broadway #369, Santa
6 Monica, California 90401.

7 6. Defendant Lime Co. is a for-profit corporation which rents Lime Scooters
8 (defined below) to Lime Customers (defined below) through the Lime App (defined below).
9 Lime Co. is a Delaware corporation, with its principal office located at 66 Bovet Rd, Suite 320
10 San Mateo, California 94402.

11 7. Defendant Santa Monica City has been a public entity within the meaning of Title
12 II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (the “ADA”) and has received federal financial
13 assistance within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, et seq.
14 (the “Rehabilitation Act”), and state financial assistance within the meaning of Government
15 Code 11135. Defendant Santa Monica City has received federal and state financial assistance
16 sufficient to invoke the coverage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and California
17 Government Code Section 11135.

18 8. Defendant Santa Monica City is a local government entity with the responsibility
19 of providing Plaintiffs access to its public facilities, programs, services and activities. Defendant
20 Santa Monica City is responsible for maintaining and regulating the system of Pedestrian Rights
21 of Way within the City of Santa Monica.

22 9. Defendant Los Angeles City has been a public entity within the meaning of Title
23 II of the ADA and has received federal financial assistance within the meaning of Section 504
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1 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state financial assistance within the meaning of Government Code
2 11135. Defendant Los Angeles City has received federal and state financial assistance sufficient
3 to invoke the coverage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and California Government Code
4 Section 11135.
5

6 10. Defendant Los Angeles City is a local government entity with the responsibility
7 of providing Plaintiffs access to its public facilities, programs, services and activities. Defendant
8 Los Angeles City is responsible for maintaining and regulating the system of Pedestrian Rights
9 of Way within the City of Los Angeles.
10

11 11. Defendant Beverly Hills City has been a public entity within the meaning of Title
12 II of the ADA and has received federal financial assistance within the meaning of Section 504
13 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state financial assistance within the meaning of Government Code
14 11135. Defendant Los Angeles City has received federal and state financial assistance sufficient
15 to invoke the coverage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and California Government Code
16 Section 11135.
17

18 12. Defendant Beverly Hills City is a local government entity with the responsibility
19 of providing Plaintiffs access to its public facilities, programs, services and activities. Defendant
20 Beverly Hills City is responsible for maintaining and regulating the system of Pedestrian Rights
21 of Way within the City of Beverly Hills.
22

23 13. The true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 100,
24 inclusive, are presently unknown to Named Plaintiff who therefore sues these Defendants by
25 fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities
26 when they have been ascertained. Each of the Doe Defendants is responsible in some manner for
27 the conduct alleged herein.
28

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14. The first two claims alleged herein arise under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 et seq.), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794 et seq.), such that the jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. Through the same actions and omissions that form the basis of Plaintiffs' federal claims, Defendants have also violated Plaintiffs' rights under state law, over which this Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202 and Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

15. This Court also has subject matter jurisdiction over this proposed class action under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)), because (a) this is a class action, including claims asserted on behalf of more than one hundred (100) potential class members, (b) on information and belief, the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and cost, and (c) Bird Co. and Lime Co. are citizens of the State of Delaware, whereas, Named Plaintiff and likely many more of the Proposed Class are citizens of the State of California.

16. Venue over Plaintiffs' claims is proper in the Central District of California because the City Defendants reside in the Central District of California within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1391, and because the events, acts, and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in the Central District of California.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

17. This action arises by reason of a deliberate and systematic exploitation of the curb ramps, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian crossings and other walkways (hereafter "Pedestrian

1 Rights of Way”) within the Cities of Santa Monica, Los Angeles and Beverly Hills (hereafter,
2 collectively, the “Cities”) by the Electric Scooter Defendants for their own corporate profit to
3 the harm of some of the most vulnerable residents of the Cities, the disabled.

4
5 18. The business model of the Electric Scooter Defendants is based on the
6 unauthorized and illegal, private use of public property (i.e. Pedestrian Rights of Way) for their
7 own business use.

8
9 19. Bird Co. rents electric scooters (“Bird Scooters”) to its customers (“Bird
10 Customers”) through a mobile application (the “Bird App”). Lime Co. rents electric scooters
11 (“Lime Scooters”, together with Bird Scooters, hereinafter, collectively, “Electric Scooters”) to
12 its customers (“Lime Customers”, together with Bird Customers, hereinafter, collectively,
13 “Electric Scooter Customers”) through a mobile application (the “Lime App”, together with the
14 Bird App, hereinafter, collectively, “Electric Scooter Apps”).

15
16 20. Electric Scooters cause barriers in paths of travel when they are physically left on
17 the ground. When Electric Scooter Customers they use the Electric Scooter Apps to locate the
18 Electric Scooters. The Electric Scooter Apps find Electric Scooters which are abandoned
19 wherever they can be left by the previous Electric Scooter Customer. These Electric Scooters are
20 abandoned all across the Cities, on public property, and typically in designated Pedestrian Rights
21 of Way.

22
23 21. Electric Scooter Customers then drive Electric Scooters at speeds much faster
24 than the speed of foot traffic, speeds often exceeding fifteen (15) miles per hour on and through
25 Pedestrian Rights of Way.

26
27 22. Once an Electric Scooter Customer has completed their ride they then simply
28 abandon the Electric Scooter near their destination, typically on public property in a Pedestrian

1 Right of Way. The Electric Scooters are sometimes parked upright. They are also left laying on
2 their side, blocking paths of travel along the length of the scooter. Multiple Electric Scooters are
3 also frequently abandoned together in groups.
4

5 23. Independent contractors are engaged by the Electric Scooter Defendants to locate
6 (through the Electric Scooter Apps) Electric Scooters with depleted batteries or other
7 maintenance needs which have been abandoned in Pedestrian Rights of Way across the Cities.
8 These independent contractors, then recharge the batteries of the Electric Scooters and without
9 supervision or any oversight whatsoever distribute Electric Scooters back on the Pedestrian
10 Rights of Way for further use by Electric Scooter Customers. These personnel are not employees
11 of the Electric Scooter Defendants, but rather independent contractors.
12

13 24. Electric Scooters cause barriers in paths of travel when they are operated. Electric
14 Scooters are operated on Pedestrians Rights of Way. The Electric Scooters are wheeled and
15 motor powered, propelling them at speeds around fifteen (15) miles per hour. Operators of the
16 Electric Scooters are not required by Defendants to have any training. The combination of high
17 relative speeds, compared to pedestrians, and lack of restrictions regarding the operator, creates
18 hazardous conditions which causes Named Plaintiff, and likely others in the Proposed Class
19 difficulty, humiliation and frustration. Named Plaintiff does not want to be hit or run over by one
20 of the Electric Scooters.
21

22 25. Electric Scooter Defendants also deter Plaintiffs from using the Pedestrian Rights
23 of Way. The abandoned Electric Scooters are barriers blocking their way. The moving Electric
24 Scooters also deny them equal access. As a result of the humiliation, difficulty and frustration of
25 these Electric Scooters, Plaintiffs are discouraged from using Pedestrian Rights of Way.
26
27
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1 26. The Electric Scooter Defendants mistakenly determined that they have figured
2 out a solution (albeit illegal) to the costly problem of having retail locations where their Electric
3 Scooters may be rented across the Cities or negotiating leases for docking stations throughout
4 the Cities: to annex and misappropriate public property for their own corporate profit. Pedestrian
5 Rights of Way, which are public property for the use and enjoyment of all of the public, have
6 been converted by the Electric Scooter Defendants into their own private showroom, parking lot,
7 service garage, testing ground and electric scooter highway.
8

9 27. The Electric Scooter Defendants' unlawful misappropriation of public property
10 for their own corporate profit have made Bird Co. and Lime Co. multibillion-dollar corporations,
11 demonstrating to the world that illegal conduct does in fact pay. Rather than seek permission
12 through proper channels, the Electric Scooter Defendants (much like many upstart "disruptive"
13 businesses) break the law, then ask for forgiveness after millions of people have been denied
14 access to public accommodations or worse yet, injured by their unlawful conduct.
15

16 28. The Electric Scooter Defendants' meteoric rise, through exploitation of public
17 property for corporate profit, comes at the injury, suffering, discomfort, discrimination,
18 humiliation, anxiety, severe detriment and prejudice of the rights of the tens of thousands of
19 disabled persons with mobility and/or visual impairments who are residents and visitors of the
20 Cities.
21

22 29. In reaping the windfall benefits of the Electric Scooter Defendants' unlawful
23 business model, Electric Scooter Customers unlawfully drive their Electric Scooters in
24 Pedestrian Rights of Way and then abandon the Electric Scooters in Pedestrian Rights of Way
25 creating barriers to residents and visitors of the Cities with disabilities.
26
27
28

1 30. The City Defendants are responsible for maintaining the Pedestrian Rights of
2 Way, which constitute an essential government program, service, and activity for residents and
3 visitors of the Cities.

4 31. The City Defendants are responsible for providing public transportation for the
5 residents and visitors to the Cities, which constitute an essential government program, service
6 and activity for residents and visitors of the Cities.

7 32. The City Defendants have failed to provide adequate public transportation giving
8 rise to unlawful private “solutions” like the Electric Scooter Defendants which exploit public
9 property for corporate profit to the widespread detriment of disabled residents and visitors of the
10 Cities.

11 33. The City Defendants have further failed to adopt, implement or enforce
12 ordinances or other requirements necessary to ensure that the Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept
13 free of the Electric Scooter obstructions which have plagued the Pedestrian Rights of Way,
14 resulting in barriers to access.

15 34. The Electric Scooter Defendants and the City Defendants have a mutually
16 beneficial, symbiotic relationship. The Electric Scooter Defendants purport to solve (albeit
17 unlawfully) a public transportation problem which is the responsibility of the City Defendants,
18 and the City Defendants in turn fail and refuse to enforce the law and protect the most vulnerable,
19 disabled residents and visitors to the Cities.

20 35. The Electric Scooter Defendants’ obvious and deliberate exploitation of the rights
21 of disabled persons, together with the City Defendants’ deliberate indifference and failure to
22 adopt, implement or enforce ordinances or other requirements necessary to ensure that the
23 Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept free of the Electric Scooter obstructions have resulted in
24

1 discrimination against persons with disabilities in the form of denial of access to the Pedestrian
2 Rights of Way. As a result of this, the Pedestrian Rights of Way are not readily accessible to and
3 usable by persons with mobility disabilities due to the pervasive and ever-growing presence of
4 Electric Scooters that are physical access barriers along the path of travel in the Pedestrian Rights
5 of Way.
6

7 36. As a direct result, Named Plaintiff and other persons with mobility or visual
8 impairment must choose between remaining segregated from significant daily activities,
9 including visiting public facilities, places of public accommodation, friends and family, and
10 thereby remaining safe, or risk injury or death by traveling on or around inaccessible Pedestrian
11 Rights of Way. The lack of access to the Cities' systems of Pedestrian Rights of Way deprives
12 people with mobility or visual impairments of their independence, and essentially relegates them
13 to second-class citizens.
14

15 37. Named Plaintiff is a paraplegic, is mobility impaired and requires the use of a
16 wheelchair. She cannot stand, walk or move heavy or awkward objects.
17

18 38. In July through October 2018 and on numerous other occasions Named Plaintiff
19 encountered Electric Scooters parked on and blocking Pedestrian Rights of Way or being driven
20 on Pedestrian Rights of Way in the Cities, denying her full and equal access to the Pedestrian
21 Rights of Way and causing her difficulty, frustration and embarrassment, and placing her in
22 danger of injury or death. She continues to be deterred from leaving her home, since the invasion
23 of these Electric Scooters on the streets of the Cities.
24

25 39. Accessibility of the Pedestrian Rights of Way goes to the heart of the purpose of
26 the ADA and other disabilities rights law, including integration and accessibility. The Electric
27 Scooter Defendants' exploitation of the Pedestrian Rights of Way and the City Defendants'
28

1 failure to adopt, implement or enforce ordinances or other requirements necessary to ensure that
2 the Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept free of the Electric Scooter obstructions render the
3 Pedestrian Rights of Way not accessible to persons with mobility or visual impairments in
4 violation of multiple federal and state disability rights laws. This lawsuit seeks to force
5 Defendants to, among other things, comply with these laws and provide fair and equal access to
6 Pedestrian Rights of Way for all residents and visitors of the Cities.

8 40. Plaintiffs thus bring this action to, among other things, remedy violations of Title
9 II of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12131, et seq., and its accompanying regulations, the Rehabilitation
10 Act and its accompanying regulations, as well as analogous state statutes including California
11 Government Code §11135, California Civil Code § 54, et seq., California Government Code §
12 4450, California Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* and common law rights of
13 Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to the above, as well as an
14 award of attorneys' fees and costs applicable under applicable law. Plaintiffs also seek damages.
15

16 **IV. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

17
18 41. The Named Plaintiff brings this action individually, and on behalf of all persons
19 with mobility or visual impairment or disabilities who have been denied access to Pedestrian
20 Rights of Way in the City because of their disabilities as a class action under Rule 23 of the
21 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure.

22
23 42. Each member of the Proposed Class is a "qualified person with a disability"
24 and/or a person with a "disability" pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12131(2), Section 504 of the
25 Rehabilitation Act, and/or applicable California law. The persons in the Proposed Class are so
26 numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and that the disposition of their
27

1 claims in a class action rather than in individual actions will benefit the parties and the Court.

2 The Proposed Class consists of tens of thousands of persons with mobility disabilities.

3 43. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the Defendants'
4 policies and procedures violate the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act and analogous state statutes
5 and common law with regard to Pedestrian Rights of Way and disability access.
6

7 44. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that Defendants have
8 not adopted and do not enforce appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that Defendants
9 are in compliance with these statutes to ensure nondiscrimination against persons with
10 disabilities and equal access to programs, services and activities for persons with disabilities.
11

12 45. The violations of the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act and related federal and
13 California State statutes set forth in detail have injured all members of the Proposed Class and
14 violated their rights.

15 46. Defendants acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the
16 Proposed Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive or declaratory relief with respect to
17 the class as a whole appropriate.
18

19 47. The claims of the Named Plaintiff are typical of those of the Proposed Class in
20 that they arise from the same course of conduct engaged in by Defendants. The relief sought
21 herein will benefit all class members alike.
22

23 48. Named Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class. She
24 has no interests adverse to the interests of other members of the class and has retained counsel
25 who are competent and experienced in litigating complex class actions, including disability
26 rights cases.
27
28

1 49. The requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are met with
2 regard to the Proposed Class in that:

3 a. The class is so numerous that it would be impractical to bring all class
4 members before the Court;

5 b. There are questions of law and fact which are common to the class;

6 c. The Named Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class;

7 d. The Named Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent common class
8 interests and is represented by counsel who are experienced in class actions and the disability
9 rights issues in this case;

10 e. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable
11 to the class; and

12 f. The questions of law and fact which are common to the class predominate
13 over individual questions.

14 50. The common questions of law and fact, shared by all class members, include:

15 a. Whether the City Defendants are violating Title II of the ADA, 42 U.S.C.
16 § 12131 et seq., by depriving persons with disabilities access to programs, services and activities
17 of the Cities, and otherwise discriminating against persons with disabilities, as set forth above.

18 b. Whether the City Defendants are violating Section 504 of the
19 Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq., by depriving persons with disabilities access to
20 programs, services and activities of the City, and otherwise discriminating against persons with
21 disabilities, as set forth above.

1 c. Whether the Defendants are violating California Government Code
2 Section 11135(a), which prohibits denial of benefits to persons with disabilities of any program
3 or activity that is funded directly by the state or receives any financial assistance from the state.
4

5 d. Whether the Defendants are violating California Civil Code §54 et seq.,
6 by depriving persons with disabilities to full and equal access.

7 e. Whether the Defendants are violating California Government Code §4450
8 et seq., by depriving persons with disabilities to full and equal access.

9 f. Whether the Electric Scooter Defendants unlawfully created a public
10 nuisance causing harm to Plaintiffs.
11

12 g. Whether the Electric Scooter Defendants unlawfully trespassed on
13 Plaintiffs' property causing harm to Plaintiffs.

14 h. Whether the Electric Scooter Defendants are violating § 17200 of the
15 California Business and Professions Code by engaging in unfair business practices or acts
16 causing harm to Plaintiffs.
17

18 i. Whether the Electric Scooter Defendants were unjustly enriched at the
19 expense of the Plaintiffs.

20 51. Plaintiffs contemplate the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed class
21 members that would set forth the subject and nature of the instant actions. To the extent that any
22 further notices may be required, Plaintiffs contemplate the use of additional media and/or
23 mailings.
24

25 //

26 //

27 //

V. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

The Americans with Disabilities Act – Title II

(Against the City Defendants)

52. Name Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

53. Congress enacted the ADA upon finding, among other things, that “society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities” and that such forms of discrimination continue to be a “serious and pervasive social problem.” 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (a)(2).

54. In response to these findings, Congress explicitly stated that the purpose of the ADA is to provide “a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities” and “clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” 42 U.S.C. §12101(b)(1)-(2).

55. Title II of the ADA provides in relevant part: “[N]o qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” 42 U.S.C. § 12132.

56. At all times relevant to this action, each of the City Defendants was a “public entity” within the meaning of Title II of the ADA and provided and provides a program, service or activity to the general public.

57. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs were qualified individuals with disabilities within the meaning of Title II of the ADA and met the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of the services, programs, or activities of the City. 42 U.S.C §12131.

1 58. City Defendants are mandated to operate each program, service, or activity “so
2 that, when, viewed in its entirety, it is readily accessible to and useable by individuals with
3 disabilities.” 28 C.F.R. § 35.150; see also 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.149 & 35.151. Pedestrian Rights of
4 Way themselves constitute a vital public program, service or activity under Title II of the ADA.
5 28 C.F.R. § 35.104; Barden v. City of Sacramento, 292 F.3d 1073 (2002).
6

7 59. The regulations implementing Title II of the ADA provide that a public entity
8 must maintain the features of all facilities required to be accessible by the ADA. 28 C.F.R. §
9 35.133. Facilities required to be accessible include roads, walks and passageways. 28 C.F.R. §
10 35.104.
11

12 60. Name Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the Pedestrian
13 Rights of Way are not fully, equally and safely accessible to Plaintiffs when viewed in their
14 entirety.
15

16 61. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the Electric Scooter
17 Defendants’ business model, policies and procedures rely on the unlawful parking and driving
18 of Electric Scooters in Pedestrian Rights of Way.

19 62. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
20 Defendants violated and continue to violate the ADA by failing to adopt, implement or enforce
21 ordinances or other requirements necessary to ensure that the Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept
22 free of the Electric Scooter obstructions and thereby deny Plaintiffs the benefits of the Pedestrian
23 Rights of Way.
24

25 63. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
26 Defendants failed and continue to fail to adopt, implement or enforce ordinances or other
27
28

1 requirements necessary to ensure that the Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept free of the Electric
2 Scooter obstructions.

3 64. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
4 Defendants and their agents and employees have and continue to violate the ADA by failing to
5 timely respond to and remedy complaints about the said barriers through their policies and
6 practices with regard the Pedestrian Rights of Way and disability access.
7

8 65. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
9 Defendants committed the acts and omissions alleged herein with intent and/or reckless disregard
10 of Plaintiffs' rights.
11

12 66. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
13 suffered, and continue to suffer humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants' failure to
14 address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs' disabilities.
15

16 67. Because the City Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
17 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

18 68. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12133, Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and injunctive
19 relief as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action. Named
20 Plaintiff also seeks an award of damages.
21

22 **VI. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**

24 **(Against the City Defendants)**

25 69. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
26 foregoing paragraphs.
27

1 70. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides in relevant part: “[N]o
2 otherwise qualified person with a disability...shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be
3 excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination
4 under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance...” 29 U.S.C. § 794.
5

6 71. Plaintiffs are otherwise qualified to participate in the services, programs, or
7 activities that are provided to individuals in the Cities. See 29 U.S.C. § 794(b).
8

9 72. The City Defendants are direct recipients of federal financial assistance sufficient
10 to invoke the coverage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and have received such federal
11 assistance at all times relevant to the claims asserted in this Complaint.
12

13 73. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
14 Defendants and their agents and employees have and continue to violate the Rehabilitation Act
15 and the regulations promulgated thereunder by excluding Plaintiffs from participation in,
16 denying Plaintiffs the benefits of, and subjecting Plaintiffs based solely by reason of their
17 disability to discrimination in the benefits and services of the Pedestrian Rights of Way and for
18 the reasons set forth above.

19 74. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
20 Defendants committed the acts and omissions alleged herein with intent and/or reckless disregard
21 of Plaintiffs’ rights.
22

23 75. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
24 suffered, and continue to suffer humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to the City Defendants’
25 failure to address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs’
26 disabilities.
27
28

1 76. Because City Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
2 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

3 77. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 194(a), Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and injunctive
4 relief as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action. Named
5 Plaintiff also seeks an award of damages.
6

7 **VII. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **California Government Code § 4450 et seq.**

9 **(Against the City Defendants)**

10 78. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
11 foregoing paragraphs.
12

13 79. The Pedestrian Rights of Way are publicly funded and intended for use by the
14 public within the meaning of California Government Code § 4450, et seq.

15 80. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the City
16 Defendants and their agents and employees have and continue to violate California Government
17 Code § 4450 et seq. and regulations implemented pursuant thereto by operating the Pedestrian
18 Rights of Way in violation of disability access requirements and for the reasons set forth above.
19 The aforementioned acts and omissions of the City Defendants constitute denial of equal access
20 to and use of the Pedestrian Rights of Way and caused Plaintiffs to suffer deprivation of their
21 civil rights.
22

23 81. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
24 suffered, and continue to suffer, humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to the City Defendants'
25 failure to address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs'
26 disabilities.
27
28

1 82. Because the City Defendants’ discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
2 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

3 83. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs in filing this
4 action.
5

6 **VIII. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **California Government Code § 11135**

8 **(Against All Defendants)**

9 84. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
10 foregoing paragraphs.
11

12 85. Section 11135(a) of California Government Code provides in relevant part: “[N]o
13 person in the State of California shall, on the basis of...disability, be unlawfully denied the
14 benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is
15 conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by
16 the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state.”
17

18 86. The City Defendants are funded directly by the State of California and receive
19 financial assistance from the State of California sufficient to invoke the coverage of Government
20 Code Sections 11135, et seq. The City Defendants were the recipients of such funding and
21 financial assistance at all times relevant to the claims asserted in this Complaint.
22

23 87. Section 11150 of the California Code of Regulations defines a “program or
24 activity” as “any project, action or procedure undertaken directly by recipients of State support
25 or indirectly by recipients through others by contracts, *arrangements* or agreements, with respect
26 to the public generally or with respect to any private or public entity.” [Emphasis added]
27
28

1 88. Section 11150 of the California Code of Regulations defines “[s]tate financial
2 assistance” as “any grant, entitlement, loan, cooperative agreement, contract or *any other*
3 *arrangement* by which a State agency provides or otherwise makes available aid to recipients in
4 the form of... (3) real or personal property *or any interest in or use of such property*, including:
5 (A) transfers or leases of property for *less than fair market value or for reduced*
6 *consideration...*” [Emphasis added]

7
8 89. Section 11150 of the California Code of Regulations defines “[r]ecipient” as any
9 “person, who...receives State support...in an amount in excess of \$10,000 in the aggregate per
10 State fiscal year...by grant, contract *or otherwise, directly or through another recipient...*”
11 [Emphasis added]

12
13 90. The City Defendants are direct recipients of state financial assistance. The
14 Electric Scooter Defendants are recipients of state financial assistance through another recipient,
15 the City Defendants.

16
17 91. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants and their
18 agents and employees have and continue to violate California Government Code § 11135 by
19 unlawfully denying Plaintiffs the benefits of, and unlawfully subjecting Plaintiffs to
20 discrimination under the City Defendants’ programs and activities and for the reasons set forth
21 above.

22
23 92. Defendants have refused and failed to provide Plaintiffs with full and equal access
24 to their facilities, programs, services and activities as required by California Government Code
25 Sections 11135, et seq. through their policies and practices with regard to the Pedestrian Rights
26 of Way and disability access.

1 93. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
2 suffered, and continue to suffer humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants' failure to
3 address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs' disabilities.
4

5 94. Because Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
6 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

7 95. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this
8 action.

9
10 **IX. FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **California Civil Code § 54 et seq.**

12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 96. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
14 foregoing paragraphs.

15 97. California Civil Code § 54(a) provides that "[i]ndividuals with disabilities or
16 medical conditions have the same right as the general public to the full and free use of
17 ...sidewalks, walkways... and other public places."

18
19 98. Plaintiffs are persons with disabilities within the meaning of California Civil
20 Code § 54(b)(1) and California Government Code § 12926.

21 99. California Civil Code Section 54.3 provides that "[a]ny person or persons, firm
22 or corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities
23 as specified in Sections 54 and 54.1 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual with
24 a disability under Sections 54, 54.1 and 54.2 is liable for each offense for the actual damages and
25 any amount as may be determined by a jury, or the court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum
26 of three times the amount of actual damages but in no case less than one thousand dollars
27
28

1 (\$1,000), and attorney's fees as may be determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by
2 any person denied any of the rights provided in Sections 54, 54.1, and 54.2."

3 100. Defendants have deprived Plaintiffs of their right to have full and free use of
4 sidewalks, walkways and other public places, and therefore violate California Civil Code § 54.
5

6 101. For all the reasons outlined above, Defendants violated the rights of Plaintiffs
7 under California Civil Code § 54.

8 102. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
9 suffered, and continue to suffer, humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants' failure to
10 address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs' disabilities.
11

12 103. Because Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
13 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

14 104. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this
15 action.
16

17 105. Name Plaintiff also seeks an award of damages. Under California Civil Code §
18 54.3, Defendants are liable to Named Plaintiff for her actual damages, and up to three (3) times
19 her actual damages.

20 **X. SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **Public Nuisance**

22 **(Against All Defendants)**

23 106. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
24 foregoing paragraphs.
25

26 107. The Defendants through their policies and practices with regard to the Pedestrian
27 Rights of Way and disability access have created a condition that is an obstruction to the free
28

1 and safe use of the Pedestrian Rights of Way by persons with mobility impairment or visual
2 impairment, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of the Pedestrian Rights of Way.

3 108. The Defendants through their policies and practices with regard to the Pedestrian
4 Rights of Way and disability access have created a condition that unlawfully obstructed the free
5 passage or use of the Pedestrian Rights of Way, in the customary manner.
6

7 109. The Defendants through their policies and practices with regard to the Pedestrian
8 Rights of Way and disability access have created a condition that is a hazard because Plaintiffs
9 risked injury and death by traveling on or around inaccessible Pedestrian Rights of Way.
10

11 110. Named Plaintiff is informed, believes and thereon alleges that the condition
12 referred to above affected and continues to affect a substantial number of people at the same
13 time, and that ordinary persons are reasonably annoyed or disturbed by the condition.

14 111. The seriousness of harm (including, among other things, creation of a hazardous
15 condition causing disabled persons to risk serious injury and death) outweighs the social utility
16 (business profits of two companies) of the Defendants' conduct.
17

18 112. The Defendants' conduct was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs' harm.

19 113. Because Defendants' conduct is ongoing, declaratory and injunctive relief are
20 appropriate remedies.

21 114. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this
22 action.
23

24 115. Named Plaintiff also seeks an award of damages.

25 //

26 //

27 //

XI. SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Trespass

(Against All Defendants)

116. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

117. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiffs, as residents of the Cities and visitors to the Cities, owned, occupied or controlled, or had a right to own, occupy or control, the Pedestrian Rights of Way.

118. Defendants intentionally caused Electric Scooters to enter the Pedestrian Rights of Way, without the permission of the Plaintiffs or beyond any permission given by Plaintiffs.

119. Defendants recklessly or negligently caused Electric Scooters to enter the Pedestrian Rights of Way, without the permission of the Plaintiffs or beyond any permission given by Plaintiffs.

120. Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, humiliation, hardship and anxiety, and the unauthorized entry Electric Scooters in the Pedestrian Rights of Way was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm.

121. Because Defendants' conduct is ongoing, declaratory and injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

122. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this action.

123. Named Plaintiff also seeks an award of damages.

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XII. EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.

(Against the Electric Scooter Defendants)

124. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

125. Section 17200 of the California Business & Professions Code (“Unfair Competition Law” or “UCL”) prohibits any “unlawful,” “unfair” and “fraudulent” business practice.

126. Section 17200 specifically prohibits any “*unlawful* . . . business act or practice.” [Emphasis added] Electric Scooter Defendants have violated §17200’s prohibition against engaging in an unlawful act or practice by, *inter alia*, commandeering and exploiting Pedestrian Rights of Way for use by Electric Scooter Customers in violation of federal and California state laws and local ordinances.

127. Electric Scooter Defendants’ ongoing unlawful exploitation of Pedestrian Rights of Way violates, among other laws, California Government Code Section 11135 *et seq.*, and California Civil Code Section 54 *et seq.*, as discussed above. Plaintiffs reserve their right to allege other violations of law which constitute other unlawful business acts or practices, as further investigation and discovery warrants. Such conduct is ongoing and continues to this date.

128. Section 17200 specifically prohibits any “*unfair* . . . business act or practice.” [Emphasis added] As described in the preceding paragraphs, Electric Scooter Defendants engaged in the unfair business practice of taking and exploiting Pedestrian Rights of Way for their own corporate profit to the detriment of the most vulnerable residents and visitors of the

1 Cities, the disabled. They misappropriated something that belongs to everyone for their own
2 corporate profit.

3 129. Electric Scooter Defendants' business practices, as detailed above, are unethical,
4 oppressive and unscrupulous, and they violate fundamental policies of this State. Further, any
5 justifications for Electric Scooter Defendants' wrongful conduct are outweighed by the adverse
6 effects of such conduct. Thus, Electric Scooter Defendants engaged in unfair business practices
7 prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §17200 *et seq.*

8
9 130. Electric Scooter Defendants' conduct caused and continues to cause substantial
10 injury to Named Plaintiff and other members of the Proposed Class. Named Plaintiff has suffered
11 injury in fact and lost money as a result of Electric Scooter Defendants' unfair conduct.

12
13 131. Additionally, pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §17203,
14 Named Plaintiff seeks an order requiring Electric Scooter Defendants to immediately cease such
15 acts of unlawful, and unfair business practices.

16
17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

18 Named Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the Proposed Class, prays for judgment
19 and relief against Defendants as Follows:

20 A. For an order declaring this a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules
21 of Civil Procedure on behalf of the Proposed Class described herein and appointing Named
22 Plaintiff to serve as class representative and Plaintiff's counsel The Law Office of Hakimi &
23 Shahriari as Lead Counsel for the Proposed Class;

24
25 B. For an order enjoining the Electric Scooter Defendants from continuing to operate
26 on Pedestrian Rights of Way;

1 C. For an order requiring the City Defendants to adopt, implement or enforce
2 ordinances or other requirements necessary to ensure that the Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept
3 free of the Electric Scooter obstructions.

4 D. For an order requiring the City Defendants to adopt, implement or enforce
5 ordinances or other requirements necessary to ensure that the Pedestrian Rights of Way are kept
6 free of the Electric Scooter operation.

7 E. For an order that this matter remain under this Court's jurisdiction until
8 Defendants fully comply with the Orders of this Court;

9 F. For an order requiring disgorgement of monies wrongfully obtained as a result of
10 the Electric Scooter Defendants wrongful and illegal conduct;

11 G. For compensatory and punitive damages, including actual and statutory damages,
12 arising from Defendants' wrongful and illegal conduct;

13 H. For an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and all costs and expenses incurred in
14 the course of prosecuting this action;

15 I. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate; and

16 J. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: October 31, 2018

THE LAW OFFICE OF HAKIMI & SHAHRIARI

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